

EMS Profile by Jason Segner, LP
Program Director

EMS Profile: Blinn College Emergency Medical Services Program

Who we are: Blinn College began its Emergency Medical Services Program in 1995. Since then the program has grown to include an annual enrollment of about two hundred EMS students. We are committed to a mission of helping students develop excellence in their professional practice, while responding to community health care needs by equipping students, through quality education, with the knowledge and technical skills necessary to become competent entry-level EMS providers. The EMS Program serves the Bryan, Brenham, Sealy and Schulenburg campuses. We received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs in January 2011.

Faculty and students: The Blinn EMS Program includes five full-time faculty members with more than 40 years of combined EMS experience. Jason Segner is the director; Sandy Medina, clinical coordinator; Jason Vrooman and Kim Decker are instructors; Eric Wilke, MD, medical director; and Nicole Jones is the EMS Program administrative assistant.

Our enrollment for the Spring 2011 semester includes 70 EMT-Basic students and 20 second-semester paramedic students. The EMS program has a combined 90 percent overall pass rate on all levels of the National Registry Exam and boasts a 100 percent pass rate on the most recent graduating paramedic class.

What we offer: Course offerings with the Blinn College EMS Program include EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, EMT-Paramedic and EMS Instructor courses. In addition, the EMS Program works in conjunction with PHI Air Medical to provide the community with continuing education and card-carrying courses.

Students can receive an EMS Professions Associate of Applied Science Degree upon completion of the degree plan. The Associate's Degree, Paramedic Certificate, and Intermediate Certificate include knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to recognize, assess, and manage medical emergencies under the supervision and direction of a physician.



Texas Department of State Health Services
Office of EMS Trauma/Systems MC 1876
PO Box 149347
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The Blinn College EMS Program is led by Paramedic Instructor Jason Vrooman; EMT-Basic Instructor Kimberly Decker; EMS Clinical Coordinator Sandy Medina; and EMS Program Director Jason Segner. Photo by Tim Hardy

Following successful completion of the EMT-Basic or paramedic program, students are eligible to sit for the National Registry exam. In addition to the required courses, paramedic graduates will have completed the following card-carrying courses: ACLS, PALS, PHTLS and a 12-lead EKG course.

We offer two main certification and degree tracks. The EMT-Basic course is made up of lecture sessions that prepare students for the didactic book-work portion of the class and a lab component that meets once a week. There is also a clinical portion of the course, which meets once a week and prepares students for the clinical rotations required to complete the EMT-Basic training. Students are required to complete 108 clinical hours in an emergency room, in obstetrics and in EMS.

We also offer a competitive-entry paramedic academy, which is a three-semester program that prepares students for certification or licensure by the National Registry of EMTs and the Texas Department of State Health Services. The academy requires acceptance into Blinn College

(college ready in all levels of the THEA, Accuplacer, Compass or equivalent exam or have completed the remedial sequence), an application to the paramedic academy, current EMT-Basic certification or the ability to obtain certification within 30 days of starting the course, and completion or co-enrollment in a college-level Anatomy & Physiology course where the student must earn a grade of C or better. Applications are available year-round, but the academy begins only during the fall semester.

The Paramedic Academy encompasses lecture courses, laboratory sessions and clinical rotations. Students are required to participate in a set number of clinical hours each semester, including emergency room, obstetrics, operating room, health clinic and EMS rotations.

What's on the horizon: In the summer of 2011 the EMS Program will move to a new state-of-the-art facility on the Texas A&M Health Science Center campus. The facility will be equipped with high-fidelity simulation mannequins and a simulation hospital that will allow students the opportunity to practice life-like scenarios before encountering patients in the field. The new facility will also provide students with the opportunity to work collaboratively with other allied health programs such as nursing, radiology technology, surgical technology and physical therapy.

The Blinn College EMS Program is committed to meeting the demand for paramedics by providing the local community, the state and the nation with highly trained, well-prepared EMS providers. One avenue to meeting this goal will be to expand enrollment in the coming years, especially in rural and underserved areas, while remaining committed to maintaining Blinn College's mission.